

U.S. Application No. 09/900,224, filed July 6, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 17453US02
Amendment dated February 2, 2009
In Response to Office Action mailed October 31, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11-15, 17 and 18 are rejected. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 16 are merely objected to.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 16 recite patentable subject matter.

One or more elements of claim 1 have been combined with one or more elements of claim 4. It is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 5 and 11) are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 have been cancelled without prejudice.

One or more elements of claim 7 have been combined with one or more elements of claim 9. It is believed that claim 7 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 9, 10 and 12) are in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 was cancelled without prejudice.

One or more elements of claim 13 have been combined with one or more elements of claim 16. It is believed that claim 13 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 14, 15, 17 and 18) are in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 was cancelled without prejudice.

It is believed that the present application is condition for allowance.

Applicant does not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter (e.g., subject matter that has been claimed) that has been amended, withdrawn and/or cancelled in a

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continuing and/or related application.

With respect to the present application, Applicant hereby rescinds any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: February 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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